

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Tuesday, December 23, 2025

All in 30 Minutes - Part 4

Yours truly mistakenly thought the Regents were on holiday. But their special committee to deal with you-know-what had another closed-door 30-minute meeting last week:

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

Because the membership of the Advisory Group on Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues ("Advisory Group") includes five members of the Regents' Governance Committee, there exists the potential for having present a quorum of a Regents' Committee when the advisory committee meets. This notice of meeting is served in order to comply fully with pertinent open meeting laws.



On Tuesday, December 16, 2025, there will be a Closed Session, Special Meeting of the Regents' Governance Committee concurrent with the Advisory Group to discuss Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues

(Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code section 92032(b)(5)].)

The meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m. at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland and adjourn at approximately 4:30 p.m.

(Advisory Group members: Regents Anguiano, Cohen, Hernandez, Leib, Matosantos, Milliken, Reilly, Robinson, Sarris, and Sures)

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/dec25/federal_december_16_2025.pdf.

It remains unclear what a large committee can accomplish in 30 minutes. It may be nothing much is happening, but that could be said in 30 seconds.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [9:02 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [politics](#), [UC Regents](#)

Official Winter Closure Coming

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Topics



Winter campus closure: Wednesday-Friday, December 24-January 2, 2026

Source: <https://registrar.ucla.edu/calendars/annual-academic-calendar#202526>.



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZCfydWF48c>.

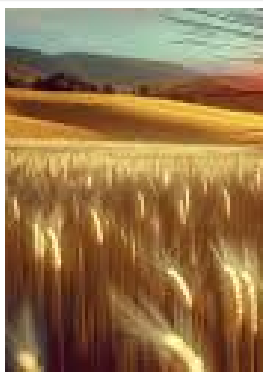
Note: The University Club (former Faculty Club) started its closure on Dec. 22.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 200

From [Forbes](#): Three conservative groups are proposing model legislation that would dramatically change faculty tenure paths, teaching loads, research activities and hiring authority. The proposed act is the product of The Goldwater Institute, Defending Education and the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal. Their “American Higher Education Restoration Act” takes aim at what it describes as “a glut of academic ‘research’ that almost no one reads and which does not meaningfully advance human knowledge.” It would carve out a special pathway to tenure for faculty who teach courses in “American Constitutionalism and Western Civilization,” increase the teaching loads for faculty who work in non-STEM disciplines, create an oversight group — the majority of which are non-university officials — to grant exceptions to the teaching load policy, and impose new governing board control over the hiring of individual faculty.



The proposal contains four sections, which include the following specific “reforms.”

Tenure for Excellence in Instruction of Americanism & Western Civilization

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The governing board of a public university “shall establish an Excellence in Americanism and Western Civilization teaching tenure pathway.” Faculty who teach a foundational education in Americanism and Western Civilization course would be eligible for tenure, including submitting expedited applications, without having an expectation for research or requiring an evaluation of their research.

Increased Teaching Responsibilities for Faculty

Full-time faculty who teach in disciplines other than STEM or Americanism and western civilization would be required to maintain a 3-3 teaching load (18 credit hours per year). Faculty members could be exempted from this requirement if, as one example, they receive “external funding for research or other purposes to proportionately compensate the institution for the reduction in the faculty member’s contracted teaching duties.”

Financial Allowance for Taxpayer Supported Research

Other than faculty conducting STEM-related research, faculty members who wish to have a lower teaching load in exchange for conducting research would have to have their request approved by a “Taxpayer Funded Research Award Committee,” composed of the following members, or their respective designees:

The chair of the board of regents, the state superintendent of public instruction, the chairman of the house appropriations committee, the chairman of the senate appropriations committee, the governor, the state treasurer, and three faculty appointed by the governor (one who is in STEM, one who is in a non-STEM discipline, and one who teaches a course in Americanism and Western Civilization course.

The act also authorizes a taxpayer of the state or the attorney general to file a suit for injunctive relief against a public university “that expends taxpayer funding in violation of this article to contract for a faculty member for less than the required teaching commitment.” ...

Full story at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelnietzel/2025/12/09/proposed-model-bill-would-change-college-tenure-teaching--research/>

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [politics](#)

Monday, December 22, 2025

What goes around...

This UC-Merced story seems likely to be applicable to UCLA:

From the [Sacramento Bee](#): If you spend any time on or near the UC Merced campus, it won't take long to notice them. They're fresh-faced college students zipping from place to place on electric scooters, e-bikes and e-skateboards... On Oct. 14, just a few weeks into the fall semester, there had been so many collisions that campus safety officials had to publish a warning to students. The collisions resulted in “injuries that required medical attention and ambulance transport,” the message said. “While these devices are a sustainable and convenient way to travel short distances, their growing presence on campus has created safety risks for both riders and pedestrians.”



On Oct. 18, just days after the warning was published, an 18-year-old UC Merced student on an e-scooter was seriously injured after being hit by a car at an intersection near campus. The incident left the student hospitalized in critical condition. While the student has recovered, the incident highlights the rising dangers of students riding micromobility devices on campus. Those dangers have forced UC Merced to action.

To spread the word on safety, UC Merced has posted signs across the campus and shared videos on social media encouraging safe riding. UC Merced, which does not rent out micromobility devices, has a speed limit of 15 mph; most e-scooters can exceed 20 mph. Some of the signs say “Slow Your Roll” — asking students to slow down. Others point out a “Dismount Zone,” where students are required get off their devices and walk. ...According to UC Merced’s Interim Micromobility Policy, students not following the rules, “may face citations, fines up to \$500, impoundment of devices, and possible disciplinary action.”

...There is no plan to ban the devices any time soon...

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From the [NY Times](#): *Canada is making an aggressive effort to attract highly skilled researchers from around the world, including H-1B visa holders in the United States who are coming under growing pressure because of the Trump administration's restrictive immigration policies and cuts to research funding. The Canadian government... said it would spend more than \$1 billion over the next few years to attract and retain scientists from around the world, including those at major hospitals and universities.*

It also said that in coming months it would create an "accelerated pathway" for U.S. H-1B visa holders. H-1B visas are issued to highly skilled people working for American companies and are concentrated in major industries that compete for global talent, such as technology and medicine.



"As other countries constrain academic freedoms and undermine cutting-edge research, Canada is investing, and doubling down, on science," Mélanie Joly, Canada's Industry minister, said in written comments to the press, without explicitly mentioning the United States. In an interview with The New York Times on Tuesday, Ms. Joly said that the new money would create 100 new research chairs, by funding not just individual senior researchers at the top of those efforts, but their entire teams and labs.

...In April, Toronto's University Healthcare Network, a major hospitals and research network, said it was recruiting 100 researchers directly from the United States. The University of Toronto, Canada's top academic institution and one of the world's highest-ranked universities, lured several top humanities and social sciences professors from Ivy League schools during the year.

In just the past few weeks, the University of Toronto announced it had also attracted two M.I.T. professors, of planetary science and economics, as well as a Stanford economist, Mark Duggan. Mr. Duggan will become the new director at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, which is considered Canada's equivalent to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/09/world/canada/canada-usa-immigration-h1-b-visa-talent.html>.

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From the [Washington Post](#): *The dean of the University of Virginia's business school... emerged as the top candidate in the search for the flagship's next president ahead of a board meeting [last] Friday in Charlottesville, according to two people familiar with the matter. The Board of Visitors is scheduled to review candidates for the top job at the university, a role that has been vacant since James E. Ryan stepped down in the summer amid pressure from the Trump administration over diversity, equity and inclusion policies. The board is likely to vote to appoint Scott C. Beardsley, the dean of the Darden School of Business since 2015, as president, according to two people who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly...*

The past year has been a challenging one for U-Va., which has been thrust into several partisan fights among state and federal officials this year. That included the Justice Department launching several probes into DEI policies and the university's response to antisemitism. Amid the negotiations, Ryan, board member Paul Manning and others have said the Justice Department made clear that the university would risk losing its federal funding if there wasn't a change in leadership. Ryan said he stepped down to avoid a costly fight...

Full story at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2025/12/18/university-of-virginia-president-pick-spanberger/>.

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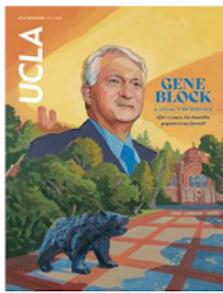
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Advice of Irony

His advice to live by: **People don't always show the courage to act. So when you think it's important to act — you should.**

Read more from [UCLA Magazine's Fall 2023 issue](#).



Source: A UCLA PR release at <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/magazine/8-things-never-knew-ucla-chancellor-gene-block>.

For no particular reason, yours truly wondered whatever happened to former UCLA Chancellor Block who left office very quietly for reasons well known to blog readers. I found the above item in searching including his featured "advice to live by."

Merriam-Webster gives various definitions of irony. Here's one:

Incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the normal or expected result.

Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/irony>.

Block is currently listed as a faculty member of the UCLA Jane & Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior and as Chancellor-Emeritus in the UCLA directory. A Google search for news about him stops with items shortly before he stepped down at the end of July 2024. Basically, he is now remembered for paralysis in the face of the events that started around the time his profile was being prepared for the [UCLA Magazine](#).

A very sad career ending. Had he stepped down a year earlier, history would have been much kinder. Timing is (almost) everything. But decision making is also important.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Straws in the Wind - Part 198

From the Nashville Tennessean: *Medley of Students and Ideas Connecting*, or MOSAIC, was an annual event that offered overnight campus stays for prospective students who had already gained admission to the private Nashville school. The student-led group hosted students each spring in conjunction with Anchor Day, an annual campus visit open to all admitted students. The university's decision comes as President Donald Trump and his administration continue to pressure schools nationwide to scrap diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, efforts.

...According to its website, MOSAIC partnered with a variety of cultural organizations at Vanderbilt, including the Black Student Association, the Caribbean Students Association, the Association of Latin American Students, the Multicultural Leadership Council and the Vanderbilt Interfaith Council.

... "We regularly review our programming to ensure that we are aligned with the latest legal requirements and that we are having the biggest impact possible to attract the most talented students to Vanderbilt," an emailed Dec. 8 statement from the university read. "Following a recent review, we have decided to expand our on-campus events to all admitted students and no longer offer MOSAIC as a standalone program. This shift will allow us to ensure that every



- 2017 (666)
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Contributors

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admitted student feels a sense of belonging and engagement at Anchor Days and other added yield events." ...

Full story at <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/education/2025/12/11/vanderbilt-ends-mosaic-trump-dei/87691572007/>.

==

From the [Daily Pennsylvanian](#): Penn International Student and Scholar Services issued guidance to students affected by the federal government's expanded restrictions on entry into the United States in a Wednesday announcement. The Dec. 17 guidance urged potentially impacted students to avoid non-essential international travel and to consult advisors before leaving the country. The advice follows a Dec. 16 White House proclamation that widened full entry travel restrictions to include nationals from Burkina Faso, Laos, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Syria. These countries join a list of others already subject to full restrictions, including Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. ISSS added that "individuals traveling on Palestinian Authority-issued or endorsed travel documents are subject to full entry restrictions."

According to the guidance, the restrictions will primarily affect individuals who are outside the United States and do not have a valid visa as of Jan. 1, 2026... Penn's guidance additionally identified the following countries that will face partial entry limits as a result of the new measures or earlier restrictions: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Burundi, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gabon, The Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. ISSS noted that restrictions on Turkmenistan were modified under the proclamation to permit nonimmigrant entry.

...The FAQs also advised departments to discourage non-essential international travel, anticipate potential delays in arrivals or reentries, and remain flexible with academic and employment start dates. The page instructed departments to refer all immigration-related questions directly to ISSS...

Full story at <https://www.thedp.com/article/2025/12/penn-iss-international-students-travel-restrictions-trump>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

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